Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7315

CONFIDENTIAL COTONOU 920

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, ECON, DM

SUBJ: DAHOMEY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

REF STATE 83959

- 1. REFTEL REQUESTED TRANSMISSION COPY PRESENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR DAHOMEY. NO PLAN CURRENTLY EXISTS, AS THE PLAN FOR PERIOD 1973-76 HAS NEVER BEEN COMPLETED. ACCORDING NEW PLAN DIRECTOR, FOUR-YEAR PLAN WILL FINALLY BE ISSUED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.
- 2. TWO REASONS FOR THE DELAY ARE: A. SHAKE-UP IN THE MINISTRIES LAST MARCH WHICH CREATED PLANNING UNITS IN EACH OF THE MINISTRIES, NONE OF WHICH HAS YET BEGUN TO FUNCTION PROPERLY, AND B. THEPIMPRISONMENT OF THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE PLAN FOR HIS ALLEGED ROLE IN COUP ATTEMPT LAST JAN.
- 3. NEW DIRECTOR OF THE PLAN TOLD EMBOFF THAT WORK DONE BY HIS PREDECESSOR IN MANY CASES MUST BE DISCARDED SINCE IT IS NOT IN LINE WITH NEW "MARXIST-LENINIST OPTION" CHOSEN BY DAHOMEY LAST FALL. ALL PLANNING TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU, HIGHEST POLITICAL BODY, FOR REVIEW. DIRECTOR SAID THAT POLITICAL BUREAU MAKES CERTAIN THAT PLAN IS IN LINE WITH SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM. HE SAID THAT PLAN SHOULD BE FINISHED BY END OF YEAR. HE SAID IT WOULD BE USELESS FOR US TO TRY TO OBTAIN ANY INFO BEFORE THEN, SINCE THE PLAN MUST BE SEEN AS A WHOLE TO MAKE SENSE.
- 4. POST HAS OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE SOME WORKING DOCUMENTS CONFIDENTIAL

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DONE BY UN EXPERTS ASSISTING IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN. ANALYSIS

OF THESE LENGTHY DOCUMENTATION WILL BE POUCHED SHORTLY. POST
ASKS THAT THIS ANALYSIS NOT RPT NOT BE USED TO HELP PREPARE
DAHOMEY'S ENTRY IN OVERSEAS BUSINESS REPORT DESCIRBED REFTEL,
DUE TO CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF DOCUMENTS.
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Message Attributes

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